

# CHRISTIAN STATESMAN

Vol. LXIII

PITTSBURGH, PA., MARCH, 1929

No. 3

## *The Home of the Future*

IN SOCIAL ROOM  
OF  
MONTGOMERY HALL

**W**HATEVER archaeologists may discover as to the history of the family; whatever biologists may conclude as to its origin and development in the dawn of human history; the outstanding fact about the family is, that the world's greatest moral and religious Teacher put himself and all his authority squarely and finally back of the permanent, monogamous family.

History, biology and psychology as far as they have been developed proclaim that his view is wise and best for the race. With this wealth of authority back of the Christian ideal of family life, it must and will prevail. Defections in religion, fads in philosophy, blunders in social science and the corruptions ever working in human life and society, may destroy this ideal for many, or for the time being, but the race and nation that holds fast to this ideal is the race and the nation of the future.

Jesus taught emphatically that this ideal is the expression of the original and fundamental law of life as it came from the hands of the Creator. Departure from it is the violation of natural law as well as divinely revealed law. As everywhere else retribution is riveted to transgression. Social disintegration has always been the form that such retribution has taken.

The converse is equally true. As Burns wrote of the Scotch cotter's home: "From scenes like this old Scotia's

grandeur springs." We could say the same of every strong virile nation today. So it will be in the future. The nation made up of permanent, monogamous, literate, religious homes will lead the future.

The novelist may glorify sexual attraction and call that love; the movies may jest about and commercialize promiscuity; the stage may exploit sex perversion; hedonism may put the pleasure of parents above the welfare of childhood; the materialist may scoff at spiritual obligation; the atheist may flout the authority of God and the rotten one proclaim his own right to live as the beast of the field; but neither Jesus Christ nor his church has given up the purpose to make this monogamous ideal universal and world-wide.

With the authority of the Bible back of it, with the convincing power of the Holy Spirit ever at work, with the growing help of the scientific spirit and the moulding power of a Christian state and Christian laws, this ideal will regain all its former sway over the minds of men and still more completely control home life.

One man and woman, united in a permanent bond, which establishes a permanent estate, living together in mutual respect and good will, rearing their children in knowledge and the fear of God: such is the home of the future. In it lies the happiness and progress of the race.

## FAMILY NUMBER



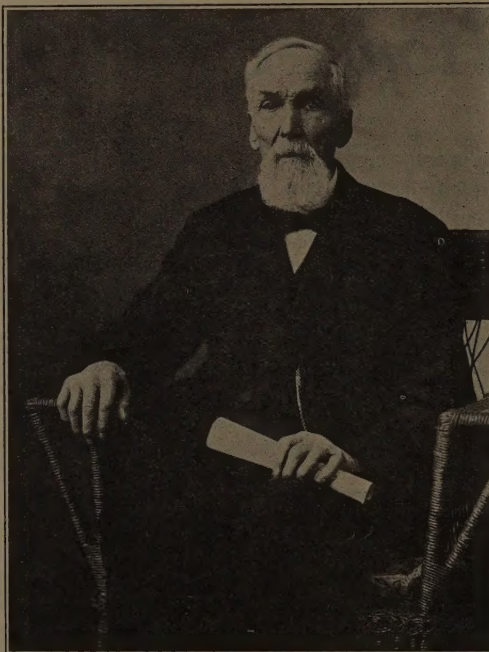
# Last Charter Member Passes

**A**s announced in our February issue, in the recent passing of Mr. R. N. Redpath, Olathe, Kansas, the last of the charter members of the National Reform Association has been called to his reward. When but a young man, scarcely of age, he attended a meeting of citizens in southern Illinois—among the first, if not indeed the very first of its kind ever held anywhere in the United States in the interests of having our beloved nation as such openly acknowledge in her highest written law the Lord of all nations as her rightful Lord and Ruler, and in all things conduct her affairs in harmony with His will. Throughout the sixty-five and more years of the Association's existence Mr. Redpath manifested a very great interest in the Association and its work. In fact he was known in the Kansas community in which he spent the greater portion of his life as an outstanding witness for the great truths of Christian civil government for the promotion of which the Association has ever stood in their application to moral problems with which governments are all the while dealing. No one ever doubted the loyalty of Mr. Redpath, in the highest sense of that term, to his country, and certainly not to his country's Lord.

Mr. Redpath's personal devotion to Christ manifested itself in numerous ways. He was not only a member but also an officer in the Church, not only a student of the Word of God throughout his entire life but also for the greater portion of that life a teacher of the Word. He furthermore recognized his stewardship. Always a tither, and seemingly blessed because he was such, for a full quarter of a century prior to his decease he gave practically all his income to the furtherance of the Lord's work at home and abroad. His, therefore, was no cheap or spurious religion. He served the Lord with the consciousness that all he was and had was the Lord's and to be used ever for the advancement of his cause.

## Minute on the Death of R. N. Redpath

The Board of Directors of the National Reform Association desire to place on record their very high appreciation of the Christian



Mr. R. N. Redpath

life and work of the late R. N. Redpath, particularly in behalf of the cause of national reformation. Ever since the inception of the National Reform movement in this country, some sixty-five or more years ago, until the day of his death, the 26th of January, 1929, he manifested an intelligent and deep-seated interest in the furtherance of the same. He was not only a charter member of the National Reform Association but so far as we know the only one living at the date of his decease, indeed for a number of years previous to this date.

He not only prayed and labored but also gave generously of his means, especially in the closing years of his life, for the promotion of the Association's work. Particularly was he interested in the national and international gatherings held within comparatively recent years under the auspices of this Association. He not only attended a number of these in person oft-

times traveling extensively so to do, but gave as much as \$1000 in some cases to see them through and make them the more effective. He appeared to see in them the fruition, in part, at least, of that for which he had prayed and labored and hoped, in pioneer days when friends of the cause were fewer in number, the great principles they sought to proclaim less understood and the opposition to their work more openly manifest.

Nor did his generous support of the work of this association end at his death. He saw to it long ere that event provision was made in his will for helping forward the work after he should depart this life, so that it can be truly said of him though dead he continueth to speak. Nor was this the only good cause that he generously supported. It is for others to record his liberality to various good causes, especially to that of missionary work in China in which he was deeply interested.

We can but express the hope that his mantle may fall upon others and that the Lord will raise up not a few such to "carry on" now that He has taken him to Himself.

To his wife, children and children's children who survive him, some of whom he interested in the cause as evidenced by the membership of our own Board, we extend the sincerest sympathy and assure them of our prayerful interest in their behalf in this the hour of their bereavement.

Signed,

J. S. Martin,  
T. D. Edgar,  
W. A. C. Brown,  
Committee.

This issue of The Christian Statesman, devoted to problems of family life in America, is largely from the pen of Rev. William Parsons, D. D., who has made a thorough study of this subject.

Recently, at the Winona Lake Assembly, Dr. Parsons gave a series of lectures on this same subject, with great acceptance. He deals with it here in this issue in a broad, fundamental, constructive way.



# The Indexes of Family Life

ON the dashboard of our social organization are four dials which reveal the condition of family life. They are commitments for crime, commitments for mental disease, desertion and divorces. It is highly important that the social worker should watch these dials carefully and read them intelligently so that he may know the meaning of the facts they register. Each in its own way registers the intensity and program of those forces which are destroying American family life.

## Crime as a Family Destroyer

Study carefully for a month the run of felonies that are reported in the newspapers. You will probably discover that one-third of them destroy, either in their commission or in their punishment, one and frequently two homes. With one partner to their social enterprise dead, perhaps both, or in prison, what is left of the family is usually wreckage that must be cared for by friends, relatives or organized society. Many of these who constitute the wreckage figure in the divorce courts in an attempt to free themselves of a burden beyond their power to bear. Some change their names and attempt to begin life over again and some resume their place in the ranks and annals of crime. In reckoning the enemies of the home let us not leave out the delinquent, grafting, politically rotten mayors and policemen who are responsible for the flourishing of the criminal in their jurisdictions.

## Mental Disease as a Family Destroyer

Then study just as carefully the commitments to the hospitals for the insane or mentally diseased and one will discover, perhaps in a lesser degree, that this also is destroying many homes. Of the inmates of the hospitals for the mentally diseased as reported in 1923, 36.5 per cent were either married or divorced. The numbers are:

Total	265,829
Married	91,434
Divorced	5,634

The exact number of homes that broke down from this cause is not revealed but it is safe to say that a majority of these divorces so recorded trace their cause to the fact of mental abnormality and that the majority of these 91,434 married

persons will never be able to carry on in the home again. In many of the states this will constitute a cause for divorce or annulment.

What proportion of the people who appear in the court as parties to divorce proceedings are mentally below normal? This question was put to a judge who presided over such a court. He was reluctant to answer because of the lack of a record of such conditions but he finally gave it as his opinion that about 30 per cent should be listed. The breakdown in these homes grew largely out of inability to support a family. In the absence of statistics upon this matter it is something of guess work, but our opinion is that this judge, who does not wish to be quoted, is not far from correct.

## Desertion

Desertion has often been called the "poor man's divorce." It costs him nothing from a financial point of view, it relieves him of an economic burden and often leads to common law or illicit cohabitation. Its real cost to the individual is his loss of self-respect and the necessity of a change in personal identity. Its cost to society is of consequence in the care of abandoned families. So far as we know there are no statistics but the rather large number of such family disruptions is becoming more and more clearly recognized. Here are some facts that may throw light upon the number of such desertions.

Fully 50 per cent of divorces are granted upon this ground. Of course this ground is often merely a cover for the real cause.

It has been estimated that not more than 50 per cent of desertions are ever registered in divorce proceedings.

A considerable number of reported desertions, upon investigation, prove to be merely the break-up of illicit relations.

A large number of these illicit relations upon further investigation prove to have a real desertion back of them that has prevented the later marriage.

A very considerable number of those deserted, as well as the deserters, remain in that state.

There seems to be neither adequate public sentiment, or law, to compel the fulfillment of the nat-

ural obligations which grow out of the marriage contract.

In our opposition to easy divorce laws we must not forget that as a destroyer of the home desertion is even more serious. No tightening of the divorce laws will remedy any of the conditions so far mentioned.

## Easy Divorce as a Cause

The indicator on this dial has moved four points during the year 1927. The actual figures are:

	Marriages	Divorces
1926	1,202,574	180,853
1927	1,200,694	192,037

Or, in 1926 there was 1 divorce to every 6.65 marriages, while in 1927 there was 1 divorce to every 6.25 marriages.

From these numbers must be subtracted the divorces granted for adultery, desertion (real), criminal and insane commitments, to get at the real extent of the evil that is being wrought by easy, unchristian divorce laws. We have never seen this problem worked out and have never had the time to work it out. But it should be done in order to solve this problem.

It is this steady increase of the proportion of divorces to the population and the number of marriages that is the alarming symptom. It has steadily increased in just about this degree each year for three-quarters of a century. There seems to be no known social force which can stop it.

The only hopeful factor in this study is that these conditions lie largely in that 45 per cent of the population which is outside of organized religion. Not that the churches are entirely free of this evil but the proportion of their homes which break up is very small compared with the proportion of those outside the pale of religious organizations. The religious element for a century and a quarter has gained steadily over the irreligious in the growth of population. Whether this gain can be maintained, only the future can tell. If it is, there should come a time when there would begin a slow but steady change in this trend—a diminution of the number of divorces compared with the number of marriages. There should be also a diminution of the proportionate number of homes broken up by the other three causes.



**THE CHRISTIAN STATESMAN***Founded in 1867*

Devoted to Christian Political and Social Science

*Official Organ of***THE NATIONAL REFORM ASS'N,**

An organization of Christian citizens founded in 1863

Published Monthly at the Association's Headquarters, 209 Ninth St., Pittsburgh, Pa.

R. H. MARTIN, Editor-in-Chief

Rates, \$1.00 the year, payable in advance, Entered as Second Class Matter, July 30, 1906 at Pittsburgh, Pa. under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

## Spiritual Incapables

First make the tree good. Grapes cannot be gathered from thorns. Stable, socially efficient families cannot be matured on the stock of irreligious, moronic, criminal, nomadic or pleasure mad people. After the spiritually gifted are evangelized, the remainder is primarily a biological and sociological problem. It is useless to fertilize sour soil. First it must be limed before it can utilize the plant food, so with these spiritual deficients. The moron and the criminal must be eliminated by scientific methods. The wanderer must be economically anchored, and the pleasure mad sobered by social disapproval. Then the gospel will have the same chance it has had with the spiritually gifted portion of the people. It is by the cooperation of these forces that the home life of the entire nation can be improved.

## The Bonds of Family Life

"Seven ties formerly held the family together," said Dr. W. F. Ogburn of the University of Chicago in a recent address to the American Sociological Society. "They were," he said, "affection, economics, religion, protection, recreation, education and family status. There remains of these original ties only the tie of affection which really binds. The other six while not entirely gone are nearly so and it is only the first one which holds families together now."

All of which illustrates the danger of thinking without an adequate knowledge of the facts involved. One who really knows American family life would add to this list a sense of natural obligation and self-respect. He would drop out the item of recreation as immaterial. He would also declare that with some of the 65,000,000 of professed Chris-

tians in our population, religious conviction is a bond as strong today as ever it has been during the last six hundred years. He would very likely declare that under the spell of our present idealization of sex, in the novel and the movies, real affection is weakening as much as any of the other ties.

That some of these old ties are weakening we readily grant and this should suggest to every lover of America the necessity of strengthening those which are really vital to the future. They are affection, religious conviction, the sense of natural obligation, education, and social responsibility. The rest can go but the family will abide in its Christian form if these hold it. Every lover of his race and his country should strengthen these.

## Sabbath Bills

Numerous bills are before State Legislatures to weaken or destroy our Sabbath Laws. At least five such bills have been introduced into the Pennsylvania Legislature—House Bills, Nos. 2 and 43, to grant local option on all sorts of Sunday amusements and sports; House Bill, No. 394, to permit Sunday fishing with one rod and two hooks; House Bill, No. 205, to legalize pay concerts and permit musicians to receive compensation for Sunday services, and the Welloch Bill which would legalize non-commercialized Sunday amusements and sports and the sale of half a score of things which cannot now be sold on the Sabbath.

All these bills should be defeated and we prophesy they will be, if the friends of the Sabbath protest vigorously against them. Back of them, largely, are selfish commercial interests, who are ready to break down respect for the sacredness of the Sabbath, interfere with the liberties of those who wish to observe the day religiously and involve many laboring men in Sunday toil, for the sake of financial gain.

The contention that the Pennsylvania Sabbath Law of 1794 is antiquated and prohibits what in our present day civilization is necessary is unfounded. The Law is stated in general terms, and our courts interpret what are "works of necessity and mercy" in the light of present day conditions. This gives the Law a flexibility which adapts it to present day conditions. All these bills are before the Law and Order Committee of the House of Representatives of the Pennsylvania Legislature. Send your protest to the Chairman of this Committee, Mrs.

Ella C. Smith, House of Representatives, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

A dangerous bill is before the Ohio Legislature to grant to the Council of a city, incorporated town or village, the power to permit the exhibition of motion pictures on the Lord's Day after one o'clock; or to submit this question to a vote of the electors. This bill was introduced into the Senate by Senator Marshall of Cleveland, and referred to the Committee on Judiciary, of which he is Chairman. It should be fought vigorously as the motion picture interests seem to be concentrating their efforts to secure its passage. Letters and telegrams from individuals, and petitions from organizations, from the Ohio Senatorial Districts should be sent to the Senator from the District.

## Bible Bills

This is a time of special activity on the part of those seeking to have the Bible used in the public schools. The bill before the Michigan Legislature for Bible reading and Bible study courses, was discussed in our last issue and receives attention elsewhere in this issue.

Our office has communications from Illinois, Ohio, Arkansas, Missouri, Wisconsin, where bills for daily required Bible reading are either before the Legislatures of these states, or about to be introduced, asking for the counsel and help of The National Reform Association. Also from Tennessee, where a bill is before the Legislature to amend the law now requiring Bible reading by adding the committing of Scripture verses. In these states our Association will give help.

The bill before the Ohio Legislature, House Bill, No. 155, was introduced by Hon. Lloyd Weaver, and referred to the Committee on Schools, of which Hon. S. K. Mardis is Chairman. This bill for required daily Bible reading should be amended in certain respects; especially the provision that the reading should be "without comment" should be changed to "without sectarian comment." Letters and petitions favoring the passage of the bill should be sent to Mr. Mardis and to the Representative from the district from which the communication comes. Address to State Capitol, Columbus, Ohio.

The bill in Illinois, House Bill, No. 173, was introduced by Hon. C. L. Wood and referred to the Committee on Education, Hon. R. G. Broderstrom, Chairman.



## Disintegrators of Family Life

**M**ENTAL deficiency, crime, disease, poverty, unemployment, migratory habits of life and godlessness are the age-long disintegrators of family life, with which every social thinker is perfectly familiar. These forces are working to this same end today as they always have. They always will so long as they are tolerated.

But there are certain factors peculiar to the present time that are supplementing these forces in their destructive effects. It is concerning these factors in the problem that we write at this time.

One remark by the way should be made to keep the proper perspective in this study of family disintegration. It is, that the break-up of home life is very largely confined to the irreligious, un-churched, about 50 per cent of the population. Not that the religious, churching part of the population is immune from either class of causes, but this element of the population is but slightly affected as compared with the un-churched, irreligious elements.

The large immigration of the last forty years and the extensive migration of the southern negroes during the last fifteen years has had considerable influence upon family life. It has frequently separated families; first temporarily and then finally ended their existence as such. A study of the divorce courts and such facts about desertion as are available, reveal a notable proportion of this class of cases.

We are also suffering from the cumulative results of an irrational system of marriage and divorce laws, which places at the disposal of the quitters and the derelicts at least forty-eight different sets of laws, so varied and extensive that no protection worth considering is afforded to this social institution, marriage.

Any one can get a divorce in the United States by choosing his place of residence with that in view. In increasing numbers, characterless people are taking advantage of this condition.

The rapidly increasing wealth in the hands of characterless people is having a decided influence in the reckless change of marital partners. The sporting classes, moving picture and show people, speculators and get-rich-quick people have so greatly increased in numbers during this generation that they constitute a more considerable proportion of the population than in any time past.

A very cursory glance at the news papers reveals the fact that these classes furnish an abnormal number of broken homes.

The growing intensity of life is proving too much for multitudes of people. It takes more brains, character and energy to make a living and support a family than in any time past. Those lacking in these elements of strength simply fall by the way. Here is where present day intensity simply intensifies mental deficiency, disease and lack of convictions and character.

### The Greatest Institution

"An Institution is a way of doing things, and the Family is the oldest social institution in the world. Before there was a church, a Bible, or a Sunday school, the world had the family which Mr. Spurgeon used to say was 'the greatest of all institutions.'"

The unequal pressure that this growing intensity of life puts upon the family wageearner is one element in this social condition. He is compelled to compete with the single man, and often woman, at a wage sufficient for them, but which utterly fails him in the strains and emergencies of life, with the result that many simply fail in the endeavor to support a family and desert the job.

But last of all and perhaps most potent, is the spread of that view of life, which substitutes the morality of the barnyard for the divine sanction of marriage. It makes the marital relation simply a mating for pleasure, convenience and breeding purposes. The fact of its being temporary does not disturb them in the least. The materialized concept of life that has been proclaimed by present day philosophy and science "falsely so called" is largely responsible. This has been popularized by the metropolitan newspaper, the magazine and book writer, the moving picture and the anti-christian professor in the college and university. To a very large extent the church people have clung to the teaching and morality of Jesus in this matter. But his authority has been completely cast aside by the un-churched element. This materi-

alized concept has eliminated from their minds all reverence or respect for the Christian ideal of marriage and its obligations.

These are the factors which everyone who desires to hold the ratio of marriages and divorces at 6 to 1, not to think about improvement, must frankly confront. The remedies lie in the Christian religion most of all; but that must be supplemented by eugenics, social sanitation, more attention to the elimination of crime, stabilizing the habits of the people as to migration, better marriage and divorce laws that will force the irresponsible, the sport elements and the idle rich to live like human beings. These will all have to be applied. No one line of reform will establish Christian conditions. So many are immune to Christian appeal that all evangelism must have scientific social preparation as a sort of John the Baptist influence before the gospel can ever reach them. This comprehensive view of the problem is the most hopeful factor today. Men are realizing as never before, what must be done.

## The Local Option Principle

Some questions of public policy are so local in their character and effects that it is a perfectly correct and rational application of the principle of local self-government, to leave them to the determination of each local unit of government. Such we should say are building restrictions, hours of business closing, parking regulations and suchlike matters.

But, whenever the effects of local legislation cannot be confined within these local boundaries, the larger units of government should take control. Such are traffic laws, sanitary and school laws, commercial regulations, marriage and divorce laws and many other things where the effects go with the individual, in his migrations. What any community does in these matters may affect the life of the most distant units of government in the United States.

Of this general effect are Sunday laws. Through promoting health, contentment, comfort, pleasure and religious freedom they advance the quality of citizenship which may vitally affect the most distant units of government. For this reason we contend that under our system these laws should be state laws applied by the state authorities and not left to the whims of local majorities.



## What is Behind Divorce?

**U**LTIMATE causes must be understood before any hope of remedial success can be reasonably entertained. To deal with divorce and desertion is dealing with symptoms rather than with primary causes; with very secondary causes at best.

Fortunately the accumulated records of social agencies, and domestic relations courts in our great cities are bringing to light the real causes of family disruption as they have never been before. Unfortunately much of this knowledge is being buried in technical forms and pedantic phraseology that make it unavailable to the average reader. But some of these ultimate causes are becoming evident in spite of these obscuring elements of recording.

The following listing of these causes of family disruption may be

of some use to the average teacher, minister or social worker. It sets forth the causes assigned in a multitude of cases confronted by social agencies, domestic relations courts and church workers. These causes have been arbitrarily arranged under those agencies which should be primarily responsible for dealing with them in a remedial way. Not that there can be any such division of remedial labor; for the church should teach what is right and best in every case whatever its cause. Any sound education must deal with all of them, if it is at all complete. Home training should deal with many which in some aspects reach beyond the home power and function. But some of these conditions rest primarily upon the agency indicated.

### Home Training

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Laziness.         | 4. Nagging.             |
| 2. Bad housekeeping. | 5. Family interference. |
| 3. Slovenliness.     |                         |

### School Education

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 6. Abuse.            | 11. Restlessness arising from migration. |
| 7. Irregular Habits. | 12. Age difference.                      |
| 8. Extravagance.     | 13. National and race difference.        |
| 9. Stinginess.       |  |
| 10. Evil companions. |  |

### Church Instruction

- |                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 14. Religious differences. | 15. Infidelity and adultery. |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|

### Medical Instruction

- |                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 16. Lack of affinity.    | 20. Jealousy.              |
| 17. Mental deficiency.   | 21. Sex refusal.           |
| 18. Physical deficiency. | 22. Excessive sex demands. |
| 19. Uncontrolled temper. | 23. Sex perversion.        |

### Dealt with by Law—punative, regulative or remedial

- |                       |                                  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 24. Drink and drugs.  | 27. Children by former marriage. |
| 25. Criminality.      | 28. Insufficient income.         |
| 26. Venereal disease. |                                  |

### Notes

- No attempt at per-centages has been made here for two reasons:
  - We have never found any general, reliable and illuminating figures covering this classification.
  - These causes so often combine into very numerous and different groups, in which it is difficult to determine which are the primary and which the secondary causes.
- Drink as a cause of family discord and disruption is decreasing rapidly in the United States.
- It is safe to say that the causes numbered 15, 21, 22, and 23 enter into three-fourths of all recognized cases.
- It is fairly safe to assume that No. 17 enters as a prime cause into from 30 to 40 per cent of the cases of broken homes.
- Number 25 is responsible for the break-up of more homes than is generally supposed. Every married convict, every murder involving one who is a partner in a home, and every person of this class made a fugitive from justice, means that many broken homes.

It is to these problems as the causes, society must turn its attention as well as to the straightening out of our tangle of marriage and divorce laws, if it would stabilize the one-fourth of the American homes which are showing signs of disintegration. These laws are a tangle largely because of blind efforts of legislatures to find their way through this maze of bewildering forces which beat upon the family life.

## Slipshod Administration of Law

Bad enough is the hodgepodge of American marriage and divorce laws, but even this is rendered worse by careless assumption of facts by the many whose duty it is to enforce and administer the laws.

For instance, Mr. and Mrs. A, living in New York, quarrel, separate and desire a divorce. Mr. A goes to Nevada and establishes a six months citizenship status; his wife remains in New York. He secures the divorce, marries a woman who lives in Pennsylvania, and settles in Ohio. He assumes all this to be legal and so do the officers of the law involved. But is it? This assumption is made under Art. IV, Sec. 1 of the Federal Constitution which requires that "full faith and credit" be given by every state to the legal acts of any state. This would mean that in this case Ohio and Pennsylvania must give full faith and credit to the act of the Nevada court in granting this divorce. This does not follow by any means. If both Mr. A and Mrs. A had been bona fide citizens of Nevada and subject to the jurisdiction of the court of that state, this would be a correct conclusion. But where one party is not subject to that jurisdiction and cannot be brought into court, no other state is required to give any faith or credit to its action. Rather in this case Pennsylvania should have refused to grant a license to A for re-marriage and if the parties secured such a license and became domiciled in Ohio, that state should prosecute them for bigamy or illegal cohabitation. (201 U. S. 562, 226 U. S. 551, 188 U. S. 28). Such a divorce is only good in Nevada. This leaves many illegal unions scattered about in the United States.

If this is true, that the courts are under no obligation to accept such one-sided actions by the states, how much more is it true of foreign divorces, obtained in France, Mexico or Central America? Any state which recognizes any such divorce either by issuing license for re-marriage, tolerating cohabitation under it, or taking jurisdiction of any question or right growing out of it, is remiss in its administration of its own laws and is particeps criminis to any wrong done in this way.

It is such slipshod administration that is encouraging matrimonial looseness and irregularity and should be stopped. The presence of such methods is one of the arguments favoring Federal control.



## Association Activities

A list of available commencement speakers has just been mailed out to 1,800 superintendents in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia.

Rev. John Steele is booked for three consecutive Sabbaths to speak in Monessen in practically every church of that city. In all he will give five addresses in the interests of the National Reform Association.

Miss Straeffer has been working in the Wheeling district since the holidays and has made many valuable contacts and many friends for the Association with an encouraging number of engagements. She will now be working in the Cambridge, Zanesville, and Newark districts for a month or more.

Dr. Parsons recently celebrated his birthday and was honor guest at three different dinners given in commemoration of that day.

Arrangements have again been made for the National Reform Association to present a six week's program at the Winona Lake Assembly the coming summer. For the past two seasons similar programs have been presented with great acceptance to the management and public in general.

Since the last issue of the Christian Statesman went to press, we have published two new leaflets: one entitled "Prohibition Can Be Enforced—One Leader's Achievements," and the other "The State and Religion and Morality." Both are four page leaflets (4 x 9), the very best available on the subjects they discuss, and the price is only \$1.00 per hundred, postpaid, for either one of them.

Prof. Dickason has been very busy the past month, not only taking part in the lecture courses, but working in the public schools. During the first eight days of February he addressed five high schools with an audience aggregating over 3,000 boys and girls. A number of school lecture courses have just been added to nearly 50 already under way, and a number of inquiries have come in for next year.

Four large nationally known organizations in Astabula, Butler, Uniontown, New Castle and East Liverpool have recently come to our Association for speakers for a course of addresses along civic lines to be presented before each organization.

Our president, Dr. Martin, spent about two weeks during February with Dr. Fleming in the Michigan campaign to secure the passage of a Bill authorizing the reading of the Bible and Bible Study Courses in the public schools in that state. Assistance is also being given in the Ohio and Illinois campaigns to secure the enactment of bills to require daily Bible reading in the public schools of these states.

### Mrs. Shepard's Letter

Since the decrease in the spread of "Flu" our meetings in Texas have grown in power and in the numbers in attendance.

Through the Mormon magazine, we have learned that their emissaries are to do special work in Houston, Galveston, Beaumont and Orange because of the lack of spiritual interest in the various Christian churches in southern Texas. We have carried this message to every church where we have spoken and this has aroused the Christians to greater loyalty to their own churches.

At the ministers' meeting which I addressed in Galveston, several gave experiences of their contact with Mormon elders. These elders have been holding street meetings; in some cases they have been able to interest the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, and have even secured the city auditorium in Beaumont for a Mormon Conference; but most business men are not aware that "The Latter Day Saints" are Mormons and often they secure their entering wedge by deceit. Have had as many as thirty Mormons at some of my services and in one case a Mormon woman demanded her right to "bear her testimony to the Prophet Joseph Smith and the Restored Gospel." Of course, this was not permitted. There is a growing demand among the Christians to know just what the Mormon church teaches and I am giving a brief summary here of their doctrines.

1. The Christian church was apostate and Joseph Smith was

called of God to reestablish the Church of Jesus Christ.

2. He found some golden plates from which he translated "the Book of Mormon" as an addition to our Holy Bible.

3. His revelations and those of others were printed in a book called "The Doctrine and Covenants" and put on a par with our Bible.

4. He translated from an Egyptian papyrus the "Book of Abraham" and printed it in the "Pearl of Great Price" and this is given the authority of the Scriptures.

5. He and his successors may supplement the Scriptures and these three added books by revelations having equal authority.

6. The priesthood speaks for God, and as God, the president of the church being his mouthpiece.

7. There are many gods, male and female and these gods have bodies, parts and passions and the Eternal Father is an exalted man.

8. Men and gods are of the same species, men being gods in embryo and as God is now man may become.

9. Men and women may become gods and goddesses by being baptized by men having the Mormon priesthood and by accepting the secret vows or endowment pledges administered in the secret Mormon Temple.

10. Mormons may be baptized, endowed with priesthood or married for the dead by proxy, and those so favored may accept the Mormon faith and privileges in the life to come.

11. Polygamy as practiced and endorsed by the prophets, seers and revelators of the Mormon church is a divine institution, and any discontinuance of it as a practice, does not discount its righteousness as a principle.

These facts were given by a pastor at the Presbyterian General Assembly and gives in a nut shell the chief teachings of their peculiar system which, as a spokesman for the church said over the Radio recently, "Mormonism, so called, is a distinctive religion. It was not taken out of the Bible. It has come to us from heaven direct. We are not bound down by the Old Testament, nor the New Testament, nor both of them combined. We stand ready to receive further revelations from the Lord."

We will continue our work in Waco, Dallas, Ft. Worth and other cities in Texas, carrying the message that Jesus Christ is the one Redeemer and we need no other.



## Michigan Campaign

At this date the Michigan Campaign to secure the passage of the Harnly Bible Bill, H. R. No. 26, for Bible reading and elective Bible study courses in the public schools, and release time for weekday religious education in the churches to those whose parents request it, is making satisfying progress. The bill was unanimously approved by one Committee, discussed by the House sitting as a Committee of the Whole and, on account of some minor matters, referred to the Committee on Education. This Committee it is believed will give the bill favorable consideration in all its essential features.

The National Reform Association in cooperation with the Michigan Citizens Committee on the Bible in the Public Schools, is now carrying forward a state-wide campaign for the passage of this bill. Five thousand copies of the special issue of The Christian Statesman, devoted to this campaign, have been sent to representative citizens throughout the state; also three thousand letters, with enclosures, requesting

that letters and petitions be sent to members of the Legislature. Specially prepared literature is being distributed throughout the state. Dr. Fleming is spending his time at the Capital in the interest of the bill; also Mrs. E. L. Calkins, for twenty-one years President, and now Honorary President of the Michigan Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and also an Honorary Vice President of The National Reform Association. Our Association is also receiving the active cooperation of other organizations in the campaign.

Our Michigan subscribers should write the chairman of the Committee on Education, Hon. Edward L. Smith, urging a favorable report of the bill in all its essential features; also the representative from their district requesting him to use his influence and vote for its passage. Address: State House, Lansing.

"Almost every man who has by his life-work added to the sum of human achievement of which the race is proud \* \* \* \* has based his life-work upon the teachings of the Bible." —Theodore Roosevelt.

## Our Present

### Divorce Laws

The following table shows the present condition of the divorce laws of the United States. It shows how large a uniformity exists and also the diversity which produces the confusion and laxity. There are fifty-three sets of these laws: forty-eight states, the District of Columbia and the territories of Alaska, Porto Rico and the Hawaiian Islands and probably the Virgin Islands will furnish a fifty-third.

Causes of Divorce	Number Of States
1. Adultery . . . . .	47
2. Wilfull desertion . . . . .	44
3. Conviction of felony . . . . .	44
4. Cruel and inhuman treatment . . . . .	44
5. Impotency at time of marriage . . . . .	36
6. Habitual intemperance . . . . .	40
7. Habitual use of narcotics . . . . .	6
8. Bigamy . . . . .	9
9. Incurable insanity . . . . .	9
10. Pregnancy by another at time of marriage . . . . .	14
11. Lewdness previous to marriage . . . . .	4
12. Wilfull neglect . . . . .	13
13. Failure to support . . . . .	6
14. Gross neglect of duty . . . . .	3
15. Duress or fraud . . . . .	9
16. Continuous separation . . . . .	5
17. Mental incapacity at time of marriage . . . . .	3
18. Absent and unheard from . . . . .	6
19. Miscegenation . . . . .	26
20. Causes below* . . . . .	1

\*Incest, crime against nature, vagrancy, subjecting daughter to prostitution, leprosy, contracting a loathsome disease, communicating venereal disease, violent temper, marriage on rumor of the death of former husband and wife, public defamation, attempt on life, refusal to remove to another state, joining a religious sect that considers marriage unlawful, etc.

The great variety of constructions placed by the courts on these general terms greatly facilitates divorce for any cause or no real cause.

It is this condition which cries aloud for remedy, and has led to the movement to place this matter under Federal control.

### GIVING HEREDITY A CHANCE

"Hereditry is the greatest third of a man's life; and the home is the only institution that has legitimate control of this element of life's total."—H. H. Horne, Ph. D.

## Why Not a Bequest?

A few months ago a friend of the National Reform Association passed to his heavenly reward. In his will he provided that a portion of his estate should be given to the National Reform Association. He believed a responsibility rested upon him to carry out Christ's command to "Disciple the nations." He recognized in the National Reform Association an agency which God had raised up for this purpose and which had been carrying on this work for more than half a century. Such bequests greatly hearten those who are carrying on this work. Because of them, work can be done which otherwise it would be impossible to do.

Why should not many Christians do as this broad visioned and devout man of God did? This cause needs not only the contributions which those who believe in it send in from time to time, but the larger contributions which come in the form of bequests from those who make disposition of what they expect to leave behind them. In making your will will you not remember this great Christian and patriotic cause? We suggest the following form of bequest:—

*I hereby give, devise and bequeath to The National Reform Association, Incorporated under the Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with headquarters at 209 Ninth Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the sum of* \_\_\_\_\_ *dollars (\$* \_\_\_\_\_ *).*